(iii) Those PTOs who are applying since last two Haj seasons but no quota was allocated to them last year have also been allocated a quota of minimum 50 seats provided they were otherwise eligible

(iv) The PTOs who had applied since last one year only *i.e.* in Haj-2008 and those fresh applicants who have applied this year could not be considered for allocation of quota for Haj-2009.

(b) Efforts are being made to make the distribution and release of private tour operators quota in a more rational and transparent manner by applying the policy decided by the Government uniformly among the old and new Private Tour Operators (PTOs) in order to ensure that there is a healthy competition among the old and new PTOs and the haj pilgrims travelling through PTOs have the choice for comfortable and economical services for their pilgrimage. All information in this regard was made public through the websites of the Haj Committee of India and Ministry of External Affairs.

Chinese claim on Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim

788. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of Chinese intrusion in Indian territory during last two years, till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that China has claimed over Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps taken by Government to redress the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) China disputes the international boundary between India and China in the Eastern Sector and claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. China does not have claims over the Indian State of Sikkim. The two countries have appointed Special Representatives to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework for a boundary settlement. There have been thirteen meetings of the Special Representatives till date. Since 1993, the two Governments have agreed to maintain peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas, without prejudice to their respective positions on the alignment of the line of actual control as well as on the boundary question. Government regularly takes up any violation along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms including the Joint Working Group, the Expert Group, border personnel meetings, flag meetings and diplomatic channels. There has been no increase in the number of incidents of Chinese intrusions.